

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S TRIP

REF: CARACAS 707

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS, THE DCM AND I REVIEWED WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF FEB 1 THE SECRETARY'S SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES HERE ALONG THE LINES OF THE REF. ESCOVAR'S REACTIONS FOLLOW IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER ACCORDING TO THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE:

FEBRUARY 16

ARRIVAL 1725. MINISTER STRONGLY FAVORED THE SECRETARY PROCEEDING BY AUTOMOBILE TO CARACAS. HELICOPTER POSES UNACCEPTABLE SECURITY RISK IN HIS JUDGMENT.

LAY WREATH AT PANTHEON, MAKE COURTESY CALL ON THE PRESIDENT AND GO TO HOTEL. ALL MOST ACCEPTABLE TO ESCOVAR. HE PREFERRED TAMANACO TO HILTON FOR SECURITY AND PRIVACY. (WE UNDERSTAND DRAFT SCHEDULE MAY NOW CALL FOR STOP AT HOTEL BETWEEN PANTHEON AND CALL ON PRESIDENT. THIS WOULD DEPEND ON LATTER'S AVAILABILITY. WE STILL THINK COURTESY CALL HIGHLY DESIREABLE.)

DINNER AT LA CASONA, PRESIDENT'S RESIDENCE.

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ESCOVAR THOUGHT THIS COULD BE SMALLER, MORE INFORMAL

LESS PROTOCOLARY AFFAIR THAN ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED.
MENTIONED POSSIBILITY THAT ROMULO BETANCOURT
MIGHT BE ON HAND AND CALDERA OUT OF TOWN, WHICH
TOGETHER WOULD OBVIATE NEED FOR CALLS ON EX-PRESIDENTS.

FEBRUARY 16

BREADFAST AND WORKING SESSION WITH THE PRESIDENT.
ESCOVAR THOUGHT ATTENDANCE WOULD BE HELD TO MINIMUM,
WITH FOUR OR FIVE ON VENEZUELAN SIDE, INCLUDING GONZALO
BARRIOS AND PERHAPS ONE OTHER KEY AD LEADER, AND TWO
OR THREE ON OUR SIDE IN ADDITION TO SECRETARY. ENVISAGED
SECRETARY TALKING ALONG TO PRESIDENT AT OUTSET.

PRESS CONFERENCE. MINISTER AVOCATED PRE-LUNCHEON
MEETING ABOUT 12 NOON TO ENSURE MAXIMUM
MEDIA COVERAGE WITH ADVANCE DISTRIBUTION OF SPEECH
TEXT AT THAT TIME.

LUNCHEON. ESCOVAR THOUGHT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR SECRETARY
TO GIVE A SMALL LUNCHEON FOR SELECTED VENEZUELAN.
HE FAVORED RESIDENCE OVER HOTEL AS
VENUE TO MAINTAIN PRIVACY AND PROPER ATMOSPHERE.
(A COMPLICATION HAS SUBSEQUENTLY ARISEN HERE. WE
NOW UNDERSTAND THAT THE PRESIDENT PLANS TO GIVE
LUNCHEON-RECEPTION THIS DAY FOR SYMPOSIUM II
PARTICIPATNS AT HIS RESIDENCE ON THE COAST. SYMPOSIUM
ORGANIZAERS WILL PRESS HARD FOR SECRETARY'S ATTENDANCE.
WE WOULD FAVOR SECRETARY REMAINING IN CARACAS BUT WILL
HAVE TO DISCUSS WITH GOV.)
SPEECH AT SYMPOSIUM II. ESCOVAR ARGUED FOR TIME
EARLIER THAN 1900 AS BETTER FROM MEDIA STANDPOINT.
WE THINK ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES ABOUT BALANCE
OUT BUT THAT PERHAPS THE LATER HOUR IS BEST FROM STAND-
POINT OF SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE.

RECEPTION FOR SYMPOSIUM II. ESCOVAR AGREED THAT
BRIEF RECEPTION AFTER SPEECH AT WHICH SECRETARY COULD
MINGLE WITH PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE DESIREABLE.

DINNER. MINISTER ALSO AGREED THAT SMALL DINNER
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IN THE SECRETARY'S SUITE AT THE MACUTO SHERATON OR AT
THE CARABALLEDA CLUB WOULD BE DESIRABLE IN GIVING
SECRETARY OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH INFLUENTIAL
VENEZUELAN. WE WILL SUBMIT SUGGESTED GUEST LISTS
FOR LUNCH AND DINNER SHORTLY.

2. ESCOVAR'S REMARKS ON SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS THAT MAY COME UP
DURING THE VISIT FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.

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